(a) whether Government are aware of the fury of recent floods in Brahmputra Valley and Barak Valley;

(b) if so, how much damage has been caused to the life, property and crops;

(c) how much funds have been allotted for relief and rehabilitation work; and

(d) what is the progress of relief and rehabilitation work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) According to reports received from the Government of Assam two waves of floods in June and July, 1997 affected a population of 25.58 lakh in 17 districts, claimed 15 human lives and damaged 4770 houses and crops in an area of 1.08 lakh ha.

(c) Government of India have released two instalments of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for 1997-98 amounting to Rs. 19.79 crores for relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas.

(d) The State Government is undertaking necessary relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas including operation of 193 relief camps and distribution of essential commodities like 26,000 Qtls. of rice, 2000 Qtls. of dal and 1,000 Qtls. of salt.

Areas covered under Operation Flood Programme

1878. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of villages/areas/districts could not be covered by the NDDB under the Operation Flood Programme even though sufficient quantity of surplus milk is available;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter;

(c) whether the State Governments concerned have been consulted or are proposed to be consulted in framing the proposals for the investments and creation of requisite facilities; and

(d) the reasons for delay in taking action even though the Operation Flood Programme ended in March, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) There are a large number of villages/areas which have surplus milk production but yet are not covered by a milk cooperative. No detailed survey to identify such areas and the extent of surplus production has, however, been conducted.

(c) and (d) The National Dairy Development Board, the State Governments and the State Cooperative dairy federations have been consulted and advised to frame proposals for bringing such surplus milk production areas in the cooperative network.

Amendment in the present Animal Preservation Act, 1954

1879. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has sent a draft bill suggesting amendment in the present Animal Preservation Act, 1954 which is pending with his Ministry for approval;

(b) if so, the present status of the Bill; and

(c) by when the final approval is expected to be given to the draft bill for introduction in the State Legislature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) The Bombay Animal Preservation (Gujarat Amendment) Bill, 1997, was received in the Ministry of Home Affairs,

tor obtaining the previous sanction of the President and the administrative approval of the Government of India, before its introduction in the State Legislature. The Bill is receiving the attention of the Government of India.

Cultivable land in the Melghat region

1880. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the exact size of gross cultivable land in the Melghat region of Amravati District of Maharashtra;

(b) what is the extent to which agriculture is developed on this land in the tribal area;

(c) whether Government are aware that more than 4000 children have died due to malnutrition and disease during the last three years in this area; and

(d) what special plans have this department got for developing agriculture efficiently in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The gross cultivable land in Melghat region is 76958 hectare.

(b) The tribals have traditionally been growing kodo, kutki, local jowar and local paddy varieties. By introducing modern technology of agriculture, tribals are growing improved varieties of soyabean, improved and hybrid jowar varieties, improved paddy varieties and other crops like cotton, gram, wheat etc. The tribals have also switched over to horticulture crops through EGS and the plantations in about 562 hectare had been undertaken for crops such as mango, orange, sweet lime and dry fruit plantations like Ber, Sitaphal etc. The tribals are adopting the modern technology in agriculture such as use of improved seeds, fertilisers, improved agricultural implements, drip/sprinklers, etc. to increase the level of per hectare production.

(c) During the rainy season in the last three years i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, a total of 1289 children below six years have died due to various causes such as fever, pneumonia, diarrhoea and dysentery, pre-maturity, tuberculosis, measles and other diseases.

(d) For all round development of tribals, the schemes such as distribution of hybrid and improved seeds, fertilisers, improved agricultural implements, conduct of demonstrations on different crops, arranging training classes for cultivators on modern technology and plantation of horticultural crops under EGS are being implemented to boost the production. Zilla Parishad also sanctioned Cess Fund Schemes for Welfare of tribals in this area.

In Melghat, bamboo, castor, coffee and mushroom cultivation has been undertaken to increase the economic status of tribals. Further, the Special Tribal Sub Plan Programme is also being implemented.

झींगा मछली उद्योग के संबंध में उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्णय को प्रभावहीन करने के लिए विधेयक

1881. श्री रामगोपाल यादवः
श्री ईश दत्त यादवः

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या सरकार ने झींगा मछली उद्योग के संबंध में उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्णय को प्रभावहीन करने के लिए संसद के वर्तमान सत्र में कोई विधेयक लाने का निर्णय लिया है या कोई विधेयक ला रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है; और

(ग) सरकार के इस कदम/निर्णय का समाज के बुद्धिजीवियों, पर्यावरण के प्रति जागरूक लोगों तथा झींगा मछली उत्पादन से प्रभावित तटीय क्षेत्रों पर रहने वाले लोगों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा।